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A REARING TECHNIQUE FOR SPEEDING UP THE LARVAL STAGES OF SOME ROOT OR STEM-BORING LEPIDOPTERA

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LARVAE THAT BORE IN ROOTS, stems, or tree trunks (cossids, aegeriids, etc.) can sometimes be reared with convenience, and at a great saving of time and trouble, by providing them with raw sweet potatoes, white potatoes, yams, beets, turnips, parsnips, or carrots, etc., into which they can bore.

If they will accept one of these substitutes, growth is often more rapid than under natural conditions. In Kansas I had excellent results with *Prionoxystus robiniae* Peck (Cossidae), by providing the newly-hatched larvae with raw potatoes (both white and sweet), which they readily accepted, even though in nature they bore inside cottonwood (*Populus*), and other tree trunks; growth was completed in less than one year, and healthy adults emerged shortly after pupation. It is necessary to remove the larva from the potato, or whatever vegetable is found suitable, when it has been mostly consumed inside or is beginning to spoil. Time will vary according to the vegetable used. To start the larva into a fresh potato, make a hole in the potato and thrust the larva's head inside; it will usually proceed to bore in without further attention. Boring larvae are sometimes inclined to kill each other when crowded, so they should be permitted to lead solitary lives, particularly as they grow larger.